THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI C.K. JAFFER SHARIEF) : (a) and (b) Six staff of Thane Booking Office have been found to be involved alongwith an outsider. Departmental action under D & AR rules has been initiated against the Railway Staff.

(c) Loss has not been assessed documentarily.

(d) No. Sir.

Cases of Police Brutality

*160 DR. SANJAYA SINH : SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA :

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that a civil rights group has estimated that more than 70 persons have died in the police lock-ups in Delhi during the last 12 years as per the news item entitled 'Rising cases of Police Brutality' which appeared in the 'Hindustan Times' dated the 22nd March, 1993;

(b) if so, what are the facts in this regard; and

(c) what remedial steps Government have taken/propose to take in the matter ?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI S.B. CHAVAN) : (a) to (c) Government have seen the news report under reference. The Delhi Police has reported that, as per their records, 46 persons died in Police custody during the period from 1 January, 1983 to 31 March, 1993. According to the inquests conducted by the Sub-Divisional Magistrates, there was no foul play in 26 cases.

Criminal cases were registered against policemen in 15 cases of custodial deaths. In 2 cases, departmental inquiries were initiated on the basis of the reports of the Sub-Divisional Magistrates. In one case, the Sub-Divisional Magistrate did not attribute the fatal injuries to the police and recommended further enquiry. In the remaining two cases, inquest reports from Sub-Divisional Magistrates are still awaited.

Instructions have been reiterated that persons in custody shall be treated in accordance with the law and that resort to coercive methods shall not be made. Strict action, including criminal prosecution, is taken whenever any police official is found indulging in torture or held responsible for a custodial death.

Special inputs have been introduced in the 'induction' and 'in-service' training programmes to sensitise police officers about using scientific methods for investigation.

Interrogation rooms are being relocated to make them more visible and be close to the reporting rooms so as to minimise scope for violation of these instructions.

Killings of persons and damaging of crops by wild elephants

1028. SHRI NYODEK YONGGAM : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government are aware of the killings of persons and damaging of standing crops in various parts of the country by wild elephants;

(b) if so, what is the State-wise number of persons killed and total amount of crops damaged by wild elephants during the last two years;

(c) whether Government have made adequate provision for payment of compensation for killed person and damage caused to crop per acre/hectare by wild elephants; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI KAMAL NATH) : (a) to (d) Because of degradation of Elephants' habitat, destruction of its migration corridors and encroachment of habitations into forests, there are occurrences of man-elephant conflict leading of destruction of crops or damage to abodes or sometimes killing of human being. The Chief Wildlife Wardens of the States take appropriate action to contain the situations wherever they arise and also to give compensation to the victims of elephant depredation. There is no centralised mechanism for collecting information on the incidents of such depredations or on payment of compensation made by State Governments within their discretion. However, under the Project Elephant State Government are extended financial support in payment of compensation to the victims of Elephant depredations.

Project Elephant in the country

1029. SHRI NYODEK YONGGAM : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government propose to launch 'Project Elephant' in the country;

(b) if so, what are the names of the states where this project is likely to be launched and expenditure to be incurred on the project ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI KAMAL NATH) : (a) and (b) The 'Project Elephant' has already been launched from the year 1991-92. An amount of Rs. 6.25 crores has been allocated for the Eighth Five Year Plan. During the last two years, following states were provided Central Assistance under the Scheme.

1. Andhra Pradesh
2. Arunachal Pradesh
3. Assam
4. Bihar
5. Karnataka
6. Kerala
7. Meghalaya
8. Orissa
9. Tamil Nadu
10. Uttar Pradesh
11. West Bengal

Pollutions of Rivers in the country

1030. SHRI KRISHAN LAL SHARMA : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have carried out a survey of the rivers of the country which are polluted;

(b) if so, the names of the rivers at present under cleaning operation and progress made in case of each rivers; and

(c) whether it is also a fact that Government have chalked out a plan to take up other rivers for cleaning operations; if so, the details thereof together with the targets fixed and expenditure involved in each case ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI KAMAL NATH) : (a) The Central Pollution Control Board has carried out survey of rivers of the country. On the basis of these surveys, 13